

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

----- **Part I. Name of Country** -----

Bangladesh

----- **Part II. U.S. Embassy Information** -----

U.S. Embassy, Dhaka
Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212
Telephone: +880-2-885-5500
Fax: +880-2-882-4449 (American Citizen Services)
After Hours Duty Officer: +880-01713-043746

For detailed information about visiting Bangladesh, including suggestions regarding safety and security, see the Department of State's Bangladesh Country Specific Information page at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1011.html.

U.S. citizens living or traveling in Bangladesh are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Bangladesh. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. Registration forms and instructions are available on the Embassy's website at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>. By registering with the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency.

----- **Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors** -----

Country Profile: Host Country Religions (See "Background Notes: Bangladesh")

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3452.htm>

Islam was declared the state religion in 1988. Bangladeshis are predominantly Sunni Muslim (83 percent) and Hindus comprise a 16 percent minority. Followers of other religions, such as Buddhists, Christians, Bahai's, and animists, number only 1 percent.

Religious Activities for Visitors

The Constitution of Bangladesh grants freedom of religion. Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian groups are found throughout the country.

Muslims constitute the majority of Bangladesh's population. Most Muslims in Bangladesh are Sunni, but there is a small Shia community. Baitul Mukarram, located in Dhaka, is the National Mosque of Bangladesh. Hinduism is the second largest religious affiliation in Bangladesh. The Hindu population is spread throughout Bangladesh. Bangladesh has the third largest Hindu population after India and Nepal.

Buddhists are about 0.7 percent of the population. Most followers of Buddhism adhere to the Theravada school of Buddhism. Buddhists are mostly in the south-eastern region, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong and Comilla districts.

Christian congregations have been established for generations in Bangladesh. There are several different denominations of Christianity represented in Bangladesh. Christian congregations include Roman Catholics, Anglican, Episcopalian, Methodists, Presbyterians, Seventh-day Adventists, Latter-day Saints, and Mennonites. Most services are in English. [Click here for a list of places to worship in Dhaka.](#)

There are no organized Jewish services at this time.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

Mortuary Establishments in Major Bangladesh Divisions

Below is a list of hospitals and establishments in major cities of Bangladesh (Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet) that store remains. Some of these establishments offer embalming services. Cremation services are described in a separate section.

Dhaka

APOLLO HOSPITAL, DHAKA

Address: Plot: 81, Block: E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1229

Telephone: Duty Manager, 88-01713064563 (Mortuary), 88-01714-090000 (Ambulance)

Maximum storage capacity: 4. They will keep remains if space is available.. The cost is Tk. 200 (approx. \$3.00) per hour or Tk. 2,000 (approx. \$30) per day, whichever is less. Transportation is not provided but, if requested, the duty manager may help arrange a local ambulance to transport the body. Approximate expenses to transport remains via ambulance from outside of Dhaka is Tk. 10,000 (approx. \$147).

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

BIRDEM HOSPITAL (Ibrahim Memorial Diabetics Center)

Address: 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000

Telephone: Ward Muster Room - +880-2-8616641-50, Ext-2349 (24 hours service)

Website: www.dab.bd.org

Email: info@dab-bd.org

Maximum storage capacity: 5. The cost is Tk. 900.00 (approx. \$13.23) per 24 hours. Partial payment should be made at the time of booking.

Embalming services are available. The cost is Tk. 20,000.00 (approx. \$294). Cash must be paid in advance to embalmers. They will need one hour notification time to start processing. Total processing at the hospital may take four to five hours. They also provide locally made coffins of plywood and formica with steel inside. The price for a locally made coffin is Tk. 22,000.00 (approx. \$323). Price varies with quality.

DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE, DHAKA
Address: 100 Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Telephone: College Principal, +880-2-8626812-29

Maximum storage capacity: 8. They will keep remains if space is available. On occasion this may be used free of charge on a courtesy basis provided prior permission is obtained from the College's Principal. There is no guarantee that permission will be granted. To request permission, contact the College Principal.

Embalming services are available. The cost of services is between Tk. 25,000-30,000 (approx. \$368 - \$441). Cash must be paid in advance to embalmers. They will need four to six hours notification to start processing. Total processing at the hospital may take four to five hours.

Contact Information for Embalming Services:
Address: Department of Forensic Medicine, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka 1000
Telephone: +880-2-8619334; 86268913-23 Ext 359
Website: www.dmc.edu.bd

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DIARRHEAL DISEASE RESEARCH, BANGLADESH
(ICDDR, B)
General Services Unit
Website: www.icddrb.org
Email: info@icddrb.org
Telephone: General Services Unit, 880-2-8860523 Ext 3625

Maximum storage capacity: 6. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk.1,000.00 (approx. \$14.70) per 24 hours. Partial payment should be made at the time of booking.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

SQUARE HOSPITAL, DHAKA
Address: 18/F West Panthapath, Dhaka – 1205
Telephone: Duty Manager- 880-2-8144466, 880-2-8144477, 880-28144488

Maximum capacity for storage: 2. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk. 2,000 (approx. \$30) per day.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

UNITED HOSPITAL, DHAKA
Address: Plot#15, Road #71, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212
Telephone: Duty Manager – 880-01914001399, 880-2-883-6000, 880-2-883-6444

Maximum storage capacity: 2. They will keep remains if space is available. Costs include Tk. 3,000 (approx. \$45) for the first eight hours and Tk. 200 (approx. \$3.00) per additional hour. Transportation is not provided, but if requested, the duty manager may arrange for an ambulance to transport the body. Transportation costs depend on the distance traveled.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

Chittagong

CHITTAGONG MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, CHITTAGONG
Address: Chittagong Medical College, 57, K.B. Fazlul Kader Road, Chittagong.
Telephone: Personal assistant to the principal, +88-031-619400

Maximum capacity for storage: 20. The cost is Tk. 1,000 per day (approx. \$15).

Embalming services are available. The price can vary, but the approximate expense is Tk. 150,000 (approx. \$2,200).

Sylhet

DIABETIC HOSPITAL, SYLHET
Address: Madhuban Super Market, Zindabazar, Sylhet 3100
Telephone: Duty officer, +88-0821-713632

Maximum capacity for storage: 2. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk. 1,500 (approx. \$22) for the first 24 hours and Tk. 1,000 (approx. \$15) per additional hour. Transportation services are provided by request; the duty officer can arrange for an ambulance to transport the body. Transportation to Dhaka is approximately Tk. 10,000 (approx. \$147).

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

OSMANI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, SYLHET
Address: Osmani Medical Road, Kajalshah, Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet
Telephone: Ward Master, Morgue +88-0821-812121

Maximum capacity for storage: 12. They will keep remains if space is available. The cost is Tk. 1,000 for 24 hours. Transportation services to Dhaka are available and cost approximately Tk. 10,000 (approx. \$147) depending on distance and timing.

Embalming services are not available at this facility.

Documents required for storing remains:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Police Clearance. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)

After storage, the following documents are required:

3. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
4. Copy of deceased's passport.
5. Request letter for the hospital from the employer, family or Embassy.

Documents required for embalming:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
3. Copy of deceased's passport.
4. Police Clearance. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
5. Request letter for the hospital from the employer, family or Embassy.

Cremation

Non-nationals require permission to cremate remains. In order to request permission, a non-national must:

- (1) Make a request in writing to the Director General of America and Pacific Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
- (2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) will submit this request to the Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Home Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000.
- (3) Once the Home Secretary grants permission, the Ministry of Home Affairs will arrange for a Magistrate to witness the cremation. It will also inform the Municipal Corporation to give permission to use their funeral pyre.
- (4) Once permission from the Home Ministry and Municipal Corporation is received, the family can contact Dhaka City Corporation to schedule the cremation.

[Click here to see a sample letter to the MFA.](#) Once the letter is submitted, it can take up to two weeks to process your request.

Cremation charges: The registration fee is Tk. 20 (approx. \$0.30) and the cremation fee is Tk. 1800 (approx. \$26). The total cost of supplies is between Tk. 8,000 to 10,000 (approx. \$118.-\$146).

Dhaka City Corporation contact information:

Address: Dhaka City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Point of contact: Social Welfare Unit

Telephone: 880-2-9563504, 880-2-9563506

Fax: 880-2-9563514

Documents required for Cremation:

1. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
2. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
3. Permission from the MFA.
4. Permission from Dhaka City Corporation to use the funeral pyre.

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains

Burial is the norm in Bangladesh and embalming the remains before burial is not common. Due to limited refrigerated storage facilities available at hospitals, prompt arrangements for transfer of the body to a funeral home are required soon after the death has occurred.

Due to the lack of space in the Government approved grave yards in Dhaka, permanent grave plots cannot be purchased. Permanent plots are only allotted for VIPs and are authorized by the Government. For the general population, plots are available for free which are later re-used after a certain time.

(1) Maximum Period Before Burial

There is no Bangladeshi law limiting the time in which a body must be interred, but the scarcity of refrigerated storage facilities dictate that the disposition of remains be completed as quickly as possible, particularly in the summer months.

(2) Embalming

There are few embalming services in Bangladesh. In cases where the remains are to be shipped overseas, the regulations require that the remains be embalmed at least 24 hours prior to the flight departure.

(3) Cremation

Cremation is common among Hindu and Buddhist communities, but the processes are different for non-nationals. Non-nationals have to make a written request to the MFA for cremation services. This process can take up to two weeks.

(4) Caskets and Containers

There are no Bangladeshi laws, national or local, governing the exportation of human remains. A casket containing a body or human ashes is treated as ordinary freight. Shipping companies, however, require that the body be placed in a metal lined casket. There are locally made caskets or coffins that meet the requirements for overseas shipment. Imported, foreign-made coffins and hermetically sealed caskets or coffins are not locally available. Zinc-lined coffins can be purchased from the following location:

St. Joseph Technical School

Narinda

Telephone: +880-2-711-5995

Cell Phone: +880-2-01711-528209

Working hours: Monday – Saturday from 8:30AM-5:00PM, closed on Sundays.

(5) Exportation of Remains

Bangladesh requires various procedures and documents to export human remains. Homebound, a Bangladesh shipping company, offers domestic and international transportation services, and can provide information on permits, authorization letters and clearances needed to export human remains.

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HOMEBOUND

Corporate Office

Address: SW (A) 26, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

Telephone: +880-2-989-5242, 989-5174, 989-5241, 989-4745, 959-4746, 989-4748, 989-4749, 989-4750

Fax: +880-2-882-3416, 882-3519

E-mail: commercial.dept@homebound.com.bd

Branch Office

Address: Pragati House, 1st Floor

1070, Agrabad C/A

Chittagong – 4100

Telephone: +880-31-713145, 723548

Fax: +880-31-710969

E-Mail: sarwar.alam@homebound.com.bd

Except as noted, all are shipping company or U.S. requirements:

Documents required for Shipment of Embalmed Human Remains:

1. Letter to airlines for space booking.
2. Airway bill from the airlines.
3. Customs clearance from the Office of the Joint Commissioner of Customs, Customs House.
4. Export permit from the Office of the Chief Controller of Export & Import.
5. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
6. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
7. Copy of deceased's passport.
8. Embalming certificate.
9. Police clearance certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
10. Autopsy certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
11. Embalming certificate from the hospital or embalming facility.
12. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer of the deceased for export of the human remains. (if applicable)
13. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer for export of the human remains. (cargo facilitator) (if applicable)
14. Letter of payment for the freight charges to the airline.

Documents required for Shipment of Human Ashes:

1. Letter to airlines for space booking.
2. Airway bill from the airlines.
3. Customs clearance from the Office of the Joint Commissioner of Customs, Customs House.
4. Export permit from the Office of the Chief Controller of Export & Import.
5. Official Death Certificate. (Cause of death should be explained in detail.)
6. Consular Report of Death from the U.S. Embassy.
7. Copy of deceased's passport.
8. Cremation certificate.
9. Police clearance certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
10. Autopsy certificate. (Required when the death is not caused by natural causes.)
11. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer of the deceased for export of the human remains. (if applicable)
12. Letter of authorization to customs from the employer for export of the human remains. (cargo facilitator) (if applicable)
13. Letter of payment for the freight charges to the airline.
14. Cremation certificate.
15. Affidavit from local funeral director concerning contents of urn.

Documents Required for Shipment of Human Ashes by Mail:

Ashes cannot be shipped by mail through Bangladeshi postal facilities.

Procedures taken by the airlines:

The airlines require that the remains are embalmed and enclosed in a properly sealed metal lined coffin.

For air carriage of remains it is necessary to furnish to the airlines the contact information for the consignee or an undertaker. On receipt of these details the airlines will then contact the next of kin when they accept the human remains. We suggest the family make reservations with the airlines as soon as they learn the person is deceased.

The formalities to export the deceased by natural death usually take four to five working days. It could take longer when the death is not caused by natural causes.

(6) Costs

All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency at an exchange rate of 68 taka to one dollar, which prevailed on May 31, 2010.

	TAKA	DOLLARS
(a) Local burial: (This includes registration and other burial costs in Dhaka.)	2,000.00	29.00
(b) Embalming fee: (This may vary according to the hospital or establishment performing the embalming and cost of the casket.)	25,000 - 55,000.00	368 - 809.00
(c) Cremation fee:	12,000.00	177.00
(d) Preparation for shipment: (including coffin and forwarding charges)	54,400.00	800.00

(e) When death occurs outside of the Dhaka metropolitan area, the remains can be transferred to Dhaka for preparation. Generally the remains are transported via ambulance which has its own mechanism for refrigeration. Hospitals usually assist the family in arranging the ambulance.

(f) Air Freight:

Remains: Weight range of an export type casket with remains is 110 to 150 kilograms. Approximate costs for air freight shipment from Dhaka to various points in the United States are as follows:

DHAKA TO:	RATE/KG
New York, NY	Tk. 496.00 (\$7.29) per kg.
Dulles, VA	Tk. 371.00 (\$5.45) per kg.
Los Angeles, CA	Tk. 664.00 (\$9.76) per kg.

Ashes: Ashes in an urn are shipped at the same rates as bodies.

(7) Exhumation and Shipment

Exhumation of remains is rare in Bangladesh. Ashes are normally placed in an urn in the family vault and not buried. The only requirement for transfer of the urn is approval by the temple or church's priest or official who has jurisdiction over the locality of the family vault. In a municipal cemetery this person would be the city, town, or village officer in charge of the said cemetery.

(8) Autopsies

Autopsies are not common when someone dies of natural causes. Autopsies are required in circumstances where someone dies of unnatural causes or if a report is filed with the Bangladesh police. While there is no cost to obtain a court order for a judicial autopsy, the family may have to pay for the transportation costs from the facility where the autopsy is performed to a funeral home.

(9) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

Bangladeshi funerals include a funeral ceremony, a burial in a family or local grave and a periodic memorial service. More than 99 percent of deceased Bangladeshis are buried in a family grave. A wake is performed on the third day after the death.

Families may choose between public, government-maintained burial grounds, or privately-owned family grave sites. In government-maintained burial grounds, the land is publically owned. Due to the lack of space in the Government approved grave yards in Dhaka, permanent grave plots cannot be purchased. Permanent plots are only allotted for VIPs and are authorized by the Government. For the general population, plots are available for free which are later re-used after a certain time.

(10) Remarks

Generally, the cost of a death certificate is Tk. 40 (approx. \$0.60) for Bangla translation and Tk. 100 (approx. \$1.50) for English translation. The point of contact in Dhaka City Corporation is the Chief Health Officer (880-2-9556017).

The total cost of other expenses may vary due to continuous changes in procedures and exchange rates. All cost listed in this report are approximations and subject to change.